

“Jesus Christ is King”

11-24-13

It happened in the jungle one day. A lion with a big ego went around asking the other animals who the king of the jungle was. “Who’s the king of the jungle?” the lion roared at a monkey. “Why you are, Mr. Lion,” said the monkey with fear in his voice. The lion continued on and found a zebra. “Who’s the king of the jungle?” he snarled. “There is no doubt about it. You are Mr. Lion,” said the zebra.

Then the lion came upon an elephant. Once again he roared out the question, “Who’s the king of jungle?” The elephant used his trunk and grabbed the lion by his tail. He spun him around over his head several times, dunked him in a mud hole, and slammed him into a large tree. Dazed and dirty the lion said, “Just because you didn’t know the correct answer was no reason to get upset.”

Open to Colossians 1. We seem to live in a jungle of a world and there is a King, but many don’t recognize who the King really is! One thing we, as people of God, know is **He lives and reigns!** Look how Paul sees the King in verses 15-20, *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”* Jesus Christ is that King! Let’s look at what we can learn about King Jesus from these words of Paul.

He is the image of God. This was difficult for even the disciples to understand as they struggled to really know who Jesus was. Listen to Jesus’ answer as the disciples asked Him to show them the Father in John 14:8-9, *“Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”* This was made even clearer in Hebrews 1:3, *“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”*

Adam had lost the image of God when he sinned in the Garden, but in Jesus Christ, the second Adam, that image is restored.

He is the firstborn of all creation. Being the firstborn doesn’t mean that Jesus was part of the seven days of creation, but He was the cause of it! He is included in the words from Genesis 1:26, *“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”* He was there!

He is the Creator. As Creator of “all things,” Jesus is above everything else! Everything on earth, under the earth, and above the earth, even in heaven! He not only created all things, He created them for good. He is above all things!

He is eternal. Jesus cared enough to create the world and mankind. He still cares very much for this created world, continues to sustain it, and will renew it! The world here is not the end! Jesus has prepared a place for us for eternity!

He holds all things together. Open to Ephesians 1. As His children, we receive abundant blessing upon blessing from Him. Look at verses 7-11, *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.”*

He is the head of the body. Christ leads His Church. This shows an intimate relationship between Jesus, the Redeemer, and the redeemed! This relationship is created in Baptism and sustained in the Lord's Supper! Listen to **1 Corinthians 10:16-17**, *"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."* We are one in and with Christ!

Jesus is God incarnate! He is supreme and everlasting! Unfortunately, we sin! Our sinful nature causes our relationship with God to be strained. Because of this, Jesus stepped in! **He died to reconcile you!** Through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, the relationship is restored and made right. Jesus gave His life to pay the price your sin deserves—death! He did this out of love for you and all mankind. He wants you to be with Him forever!

But it was more than a single act of love and mercy. **He died to bring peace.** Jesus' death makes peace possible by faith. When you have peace, the problems of life don't bother as much. Will there still be things that make life difficult? Sure. But as you focus on Jesus Christ, you come to realize that all things of this world are so unimportant. He has a plan for you and all He asks is that you come to Him and follow Him!

All of this is because **He is your Savior.** As we come to the beginning of the preparation of His coming as a little baby in Bethlehem, we need to see beyond the baby in a manger and know He came to redeem us from the sin that holds us back.

The words of the song we're about to sing, speak so wonderfully of Who He is as our King. *"All hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel: King of kings, Lord of lords, bright Morning Star. And thro'-out eternity I'll sing His praises, And I'll reign with Him thro'-out eternity."*

May this be your prayer not only this Advent and Christmas season, but each and every day of the rest of your life!